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Black Seidhe

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“To call them Aen Seidhe is an insult to both peoples. The Seidhe sing to the trees and weep for the past; the Nílfe measured the trees with mathematics and sought to conquer the future. They are the People of the Mist, the architects of the ancient Golden Empire, and the true ancestors of Nilfgaard. If you ever meet one with skin like dark gold and eyes of hot pink, do not expect a sympathetic ear or a woodland guerrilla. Expect cold, mathematical perfection and an arrogance that makes an Imperial Emperor look humble.”

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Lore & Background

The Aen Nílfe (People of the Mist), erroneously and derogatorily called the "Black Seidhe" in the North, are a distinct elven culture born from the intermingling of

the Aen Seidhe and the Aen Elle during the Age of Migration. They settled in the Alba Valley, founding the city of *Nífl Garðr* (Misty Garden)—the direct geographical and cultural predecessor of the Nilfgaardian Empire.

At their height, they ruled *Ór Ard Rhion* (The Golden High Kingdom, often mistranslated as the Golden Empire), expanding their territory across the Far South, Ofir, and Zangvebar. Unlike the Seidhe, who sought harmony with nature, the Nílfe were ethno-collectivist imperialists. They believed that to restore their lost paradise, they needed to genetically engineer the "perfect" definitive species, viewing other races—and even "imperfect" elves—as biological building blocks to be enslaved or utilized.

Their empire collapsed centuries ago due to a massive civil war (The Kinstrife) and slave rebellions. By 1272 AR, they are a scattered, fading shadow of their former glory. Many were absorbed into the human Nilfgaardian bloodline, while a few isolated populations survive in hidden mountain metakoinonías or hide in plain sight.

Physical Characteristics

The Aen Nílfe look distinctly different from their Northern cousins.

- **Skin Tone:** They possess swarthy or olive complexions that tan into striking dark-golden or light-reddish hues. Those who avoid the sun appear greyish or pale.
- **Eyes & Hair:** Their hair is typically wavy or curly, ranging from jet black to amber, red, and yellow. Their eyes feature striking, exotic colors including amber, yellow, solid black, and hot pink.
- **Physiology:** Like all elves, they lack cuspids, and the males lack a laryngeal prominence (Adam's apple). However, the Nílfe are famously associated with the "Golden Ratio," possessing facial and bodily proportions that are mathematically flawless. Aristocrats are incredibly tall (up to 1.95m for women and 1.80m for men), though commoners are closer to human height.

Naming Conventions

Unlike the aesthetic names of the Aen Seidhe, Nílfe names denote the child's natural, genetic aptitude. A child is simply called "boy" or "girl" until their aptitude manifests between the ages of three and six.

Names follow the structure: **Deas atat [Concept]** *(Apt for [Concept])*

- **Deasatatrhyfel:** Apt for War
- **Deasatathud:** Apt for Magic
- **Deasatatsaevhern:** Apt for Wisdom

Surnames use the archaic Nilfgaardian prefix **wvar** (Family of):

- *Deasatathud wvar Torc'he* (Apt for Magic, of the Family of the Powerful).

Sub-Race Mechanics: Aen Nílfe

When creating an Elven character, you may choose to play as an Aen Nílfe. You retain the standard Elven lifespan and social penalties in the North, but you **replace** the standard Elven Perks (*Artistic, Marksman, Nature Attunement*) with the following Aen Nílfe Perks.

1. The Golden Ratio

The Aen Nílfe do not create for passion; they create for mathematical perfection. They are inherently obsessed with the Golden Ratio and absolute precision.

- **Effect:** You gain an inherent +2 to **Crafting** and **Fine Arts** checks. Furthermore, any item you craft or repair is considered mathematically flawless, increasing its visual or trade value by 10% to wealthy buyers or Nilfgaardians.

2. Legacy of the Misty Garden

As the descendants of the Aen Elle and the founders of the ancient Golden Empire, the Aen Nílfe possess a terrifying, innate connection to the magical forces of the world. They do not view magic as a natural flow, but as a tool to be dominated.

- **Effect:** You gain an inherent +2 to your **Vigor Threshold**, and you gain a +1 bonus to your **Education** skill, representing your deep ancestral knowledge of ancient histories and the Scholar's Tongue.

3. Cold Pragmatism

The Aen Nílfe are ethno-collectivists who value logic, efficiency, and the "long-term plan" over momentary emotions. They view the natural world not with

awe, but as raw material waiting to be perfected.

- **Effect:** You are completely immune to the **Charmed** condition. Additionally, because your mind is heavily regimented by ancient cultural discipline, you gain an inherent +2 to **Resist Coercion** checks.

Roleplaying an Aen Nílfe in 1272 AR

In the North

You are in constant danger. The Nordlings view you as a "Black Seidhe"—a terrifying myth associated with dark magic and the Nilfgaardian invaders. The Scoia'tael view you with deep suspicion, as your ancestors despised the Aen Seidhe's reverence for nature and preferred imperial subjugation. You likely wear heavy cloaks to hide your golden skin and pink eyes.

In the South

You are a living relic. The Nilfgaardians respect your ancestry, knowing their civilization is built upon the bones of *Nífl Garðr*. However, the Imperial Cult of the Great Sun violently wiped out the ancient Nílfe religions. You must tread carefully, presenting yourself as a loyal citizen of the Empire while quietly mourning the loss of the greatest elven civilization the world ever saw.

Mindset

You do not act on impulse. You are arrogant, but quietly so. You view humans not as inherently evil, but as flawed, short-lived tools that breed quickly. You view standard elves as romantic fools. Everything you do is calculated to ensure the survival and eventual perfection of your lineage.

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